

**AG IACC Subcommittee Meeting Notes**  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendees:**

Marshall Lee (CDPR)	John Andrew (DWR)
Bob Elliott (CDPR)	Christine Turner (Placer Co. Ag. Commissioner)
Tom Lanphar (CalEPA)	Ed Meyer (Contra Costa Co. Ag. Commissioner)
Gene lee (USBR)	Michael Reid (UC ANR)
Lee Mao (USBR)	Rainer Hoenicke (Resources Agency)
Pete Osmolovsky (Central Valley RWQCB, Fresno)	Kathy Brunetti (CDPR)
John B. Meek Jr. (San Joaquin Co & Delta Water Quality Coalition)	David Bolland (ACWA)
Larry Schwankl (UCCE)	Jessie Maxfield (SWRCB)
Dan Putnum (UCCE, UC Davis)	Summer Bundy (CH2M HILL)
Paul Kjos (Shasta County Dept. of Ag.)	Val Conner (SWRCB)
Bruce Roberts (UCCE, Kings County)	Ben Wallace (Ca.RCD)
Kelly Briggs (Central Valley RWQCB, Sacramento)	Steve Chedester (San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority)
Beckie Challender (USDA-NRCS)	Al Vargas (CDFA)
Wayne Verrill (SWRCB)	Casey Walsh Cady (CDFA)
Dennis Gudgel (Stanislaus Co. Ag. Commissioner)	Jay Chamberlin (Resources Agency)
Jerry Prieto (Fresno Co. Ag. Commissioner)	Alison Jones (Central Coast RWQCB)
Michael Niemi (Modesto Irrigation District)	Dennis Heiman (Central Valley RWQCB, Redding)
Joe Lima (Modesto Irrigation District)	Guy Chetalet (Central Valley RWQCB, Redding)
Steve Macaulay (California Urban Water Agencies)	Raymond Jay (Los Angeles RWQCB)
Bill Darcy (SJ Coalition)	Fraser Sime (DWR)
David Corey (SJ River Exchange)	Mary Bianchi (UCCE)
Bob Lilley (SLO County)	Amanda Bern (Central Coast RWQCB)
Bill Croyle (Central Valley RWQCB, Sacramento)	

After introductions and reviewing the goals of the AG IACC Subcommittee, Pete Osmolovsky gave a presentation on region 5's Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture (\*see power point). Afterwards there was some question and answer.

-There was a question about when the NOA would be available for folks. Attendees agreed that this was something that was needed ASAP in order to move forward with their MRP, etc. **RWQCB staff were going to look into this.**

-Alison Jones and Amanda Bern from the Central Coast RWQCB provided a summary of their waiver program, which is currently being developed. It is very similar to the Central Valley RWQCB's program but it covers groundwater. Also, in order to meet the conditions of the waiver, growers must attend 15 hours of grower short courses being offered in their county. This approach builds on the success of other UCCE short courses such as the Rangeland Management short courses offered in the past. *(\*Unfortunately, the proposal to continue Region 3's successful UCCE farm water quality class and farm plan effort did not get invited back for funding. Unless another source of funding can be secured in the next 6 months, the UCCE farm classes will be forced to end spring 2004).* There is individual enrollment for growers and growers must develop water quality plans for their farms. Monitoring through the State's SWAMP (Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program) has given RWQCB staff a clear picture of what the impacts to water quality are from irrigated agriculture and where there are impairments associated with runoff from irrigated Ag. The RWQCB also has a structure for managing monitoring data in place. There is a Ag. advisory panel that has been assisting the RWQCB in developing their waiver program. The RWQCB expect enrollment in the program to occur in July or Sept. of 2004.

-Meeting attendees liked the idea of the grower short courses and it was suggested that a subgroup of those folks interested in discussing the development of grower short courses similar to those on the Central Coast for the Central Valley should form. It suggested that it could be a 'train the trainer' course where coalition groups are trained and then they can train growers. **Please contact Jessie Maxfield if you are interested in participating in this group.**

-The question of what other RWQCBs were doing for a waiver for irrigated agriculture was raised. The only other RWQCB represented at the meeting was the Los Angeles RWQCB, and they plan to develop a waiver program similar to the CVRWQCB's in the near future. The San Francisco RWQCB also plans to develop a similar program.

Next there was a presentation from Val Conner from the SWRCB on the SWAMP (Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program) and how it relates to the implementation of the AG Waiver. (\* see power point)

### **Highlights:**

- Coalition groups may use the SWAMP QAPP as a starting point for their monitoring plans, however, there are some additional requirements for the waiver (consult w/ RWQCB staff person for further clarification on this).
- In March 2004, there will be a CD-ROM Training Module available.
- Training courses will be offered through CWI (California Water Institute) starting in Jan. 2004

- QAPP Template available
- Contact Bill Ray (SWRCB) for QAPP questions (916) 341-5583

Holly Sheridan (Statewide Citizen Monitoring Coordinator) shared some information about the Clean Water Team/Citizen Monitoring. See webpage for more details:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/volunteer.html>

There is a model QAPP for citizen monitoring and criteria for field data collection. Community colleges will be training folks for citizen monitoring. This may be something that can be included as part of the short courses.

Rebecca Challender from NRCS talked about some of the tools and resources NRCS has for implementing the waiver program including the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide. To view, see link below.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>

Sections III, IV, and V are most useful for this program.

NRCS has certified planners that can write management plans at farm or watershed scale. There will be a planning course in Dec. 2003.

The issue was raised that funding sources for management planning need to be available.

Kathy Brunetti from Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) discussed regulatory authorities and databases.

CDPR's Pesticide Use Reporting (PUR) data requirements include

- type (by ingredient)
- when applied
- day applied
- how applied

\*Anyone using pesticides on their farm is required to specify **how much** of **what** they are using and **when**.

100% use reporting began in 1989.

This database is available by CD-ROM . If the group needs smaller scale data, or data before the PUR is available, CDPR can work with the coalition groups and AG Commissioners to get the data. This data is also useful for land-use analysis as well (as it contains crop info.).

CDPR's website also has information on environmental fate reviews, monitoring protocols, groundwater databases for pesticide impacts, and surface water databases for pesticide impacts. If you cannot find the appropriate contact person through the website, contact Kathy Brunetti (916) 324-4100 and she can get you in touch with the appropriate

person. CDPR staff work closely with Commodity Groups and the County Ag. Commissioners.

AG Commissioners Ed Meyer (Contra Costa) and Christine Turner (Placer) provided some input on their continuing education programs. They offer training for people coming in for licensing. The Commissioner also voiced concerns of growers in their counties stating that there still needs to be clarification as to what are considered to be “California’s waters”. Also, if there is a county –wide stormwater permit, how does this relate to the Ag. Waiver? Growers need to understand that this waiver relates to discharges of waste, not discharges of stormwater specifically. \*According to SWRCB staff in the Stormwater program, municipal stormwater management plans do not address runoff from agriculture. Growers should not assume they are covered under a stormwater management plan. Finding a way to coordinate the monitoring required for the waiver and for the stormwater management plans may be a worthwhile topic for this group to explore.

UCCE representatives discussed their work in on-farm management. Time did not permit much discussion on the topic, but it was clear that further discussion on how UCCE’s work could tie into waiver implementation (specifically through MP implementation and technical support) was warranted.

The group wanted to meet again before January so a meeting was scheduled for Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9AM to Noon.

During meeting discussion there were some topics that came up that there was not time in the agenda to discuss. These “parking lot” items will be discussed during the next meeting. They are as follows:

**-NOAs (Coalition Groups need NOAs ASAP).**

**-Stormwater permits and AG Waiver implementation. Overlap?**

**-Low threat waiver/parcel size (RWQCB needs to get input from stakeholder on this)**

**-Nonfilers? How will the RWQCB address this?**

**-Program Priorities vs. what actually gets funded**